

# HOUSE BILL 192

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr1441  
CF SB 208

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By: **Delegate Woods**

Requested: October 29, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Higher Education Commission – Religious Educational Institutions –**  
3 **Certificate of Approval**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting certain religious educational institutions accredited by  
5 certain accrediting bodies from the requirement to obtain a certificate of approval  
6 from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to operate in the State; and  
7 generally relating to religious educational institutions and a certificate of approval.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 10–101(a) and (c)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 11–202.1(b)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Education**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 10–101.

2 (a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (c) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

4 11–202.1.

5 (b) (1) Subject to the requirements imposed by this section, and except as  
6 prohibited in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a religious educational institution may  
7 operate without a certificate of approval from the Commission and may enroll Maryland  
8 students in a fully online distance education program in the State without a registration  
9 from the Commission if the institution:

10 (i) Is established for religious educational purposes;

11 (ii) Provides educational programs only for religious vocations or  
12 purposes;

13 (iii) Offers only sectarian instruction designed for and aimed at  
14 individuals who hold or seek to learn the particular religious faiths or beliefs taught by the  
15 institution; and

16 (iv) States on the certificate or diploma the religious nature of the  
17 award.

18 (2) **(I) THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO A RELIGIOUS**  
19 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT WAS AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE STATE**  
20 **AND HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION IN THE STATE SINCE BEFORE JANUARY**  
21 **1, 2013.**

22 **(II)** A religious educational institution that is accredited by an  
23 accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education may not operate  
24 without a certificate of approval from the Commission.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
26 1, 2026.